

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 059789

R 211600Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0377

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, YO

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

1. CAIRO PRESS RECENTLY HAS CONTAINED VARIOUS REFERENCES TO INCREASING COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA. GOY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER MOGOTOVITCH (PHONETIC) SAW SADAT IN EARLY OCT, GOE MINWAR ISMAIL MET TITO TWO WEEKS LATER, AND GOY ASST FON-MIN KOMATINA WAS IN CAIRO AT END OF MONTH. AHAM NOV 20 "LEARNED" TITO HAS RENEWED INVITATION TO SADAT TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA. (COMMENT: EMBOFF ASKED YUGOSLAV EMBOFF NOV 19 IF STATE VISIT IS IN THE OFFING. AS USUAL, NO STRAIGHT REPLY WAS FORTHCOMING, BUT IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT SADAT NOT PLANNING VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE AT LEAST AND TITO MOST CERTAINLY NOT COMING HERE.)

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTS NOV 20 THAT FAHMY PREVIOUS DAY RECEIVED YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR AT LATTER'S REQUEST. THEY REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED CURRENT ME SITUATION, BILATERAL COOPERATION "IN ALL FIELDS", POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, AND NEXT WEEK'S VISIT TO EGYPT BY LEADING "INDUSTRIALISTS".

3. AHAM CLAIMS GOE AMBASSADOR GHALIB WHO CURRENTLY ON SHORT VACATION IN EGYPT WILL RETURN TO BELGRADE ON SUNDAY AFTER

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HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT LAST WEEK.

4. COMMENT: GHALIB'S UNANNOUNCED RETURN TO CAIRO AND HIS MEETING WITH SADAT ON NOV 16, WHICH WAS NOTED ON AHRAM FRONT PAGE JUST ABOVE NEWS ITEM ON SOVIET UNION, HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPIRITED SPECULATION ABOUT GHALIB'S FUTURE. THREE MOST PERSISTENT RUMORS ARE THAT HE WILL REPLACE GOE AMBASSADOR HAFIZ ISMAIL IN MOSCOW, THAT HE WILL BE APPOINTED TO VERY SENIOR RANK OF "ADVISOR" TO PRESIDENT SADAT, OR HE IS TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER, REPLACING FAHMY SOMETIME BEFORE BREZHNEV ARRIVES IN CAIRO IN MID-JANUARY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF GHALIB, AS IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH MOSCOW AS FAHMY IS EQUATED WITH WASHINGTON, BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HAFIZ ISMAIL IS DOING CREDITABLE JOB IN MOSCOW AND WE KNOW OF NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD BE REPLACED NOW. POSSIBILITY FOR SENIOR POST IN PRESIDENCY CONTAINS SOME SEED OF RATIONALITY BUT WE DOUBT IT WILL COME TO PASS. GHALIB RETURNED HERE TO ACCOMPANY HIS WIFE ON SHORT VACATION. NEITHER SHE NOR HE WANTED TO GO TO BELGRADE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. GHALIB IN PARTICULAR IS NOT ENJOYING THEIR ASSIGNMENT THERE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET, GHALIB WILL GO BACK TO BELGRADE AS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT RUMORS ABOUT HIM, WHICH HAVE ENLIVENED DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS HERE FOR TEN DAYS, WERE BEGUN BY GHALIB HIMSELF IN PIOUS HOPE THAT WISH WOULD BE FATHER TO FACT. END COMMENT.

5. WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON PROJECTED YUGOSLAV MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. YUGOSLAVE EMBOFF TOLD US NO FIRM DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE PENDING COMPLETION OF GOY ASSESSMENT OF MARSHAL ISMAIL'S LAST VISIT.
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